



**ALLSTATE
FIRE SYSTEMS**
an encore fire protection company

Testimony by David K. Thompson, Executive Vice President of Allstate Fire Systems, LLC

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee on February 24, 2015

**HB 6246 – An Act Concerning Labor Agreements and the Governing Bodies of
Municipalities**

My name is David K. Thompson and I am the Executive Vice President of Allstate Fire Systems, a Connecticut fire protection contractor located in Hartford, CT. Having been in business since 1994, we have grown within this great state for over 20 years establishing ourselves as one of the largest fire protection contractors in Connecticut. During nearly 21 years in business, we have performed work on several hundred publicly financed projects including municipal, state and federally funded projects.

I am here to express our resounding support of HB 6246, an Act Concerning Labor Agreements and Governing Bodies of Municipalities. This raised bill simply establishes a very reasonable requirement - that every municipality considering the use of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) hold a public hearing to discuss the decision. Sometimes bills are raised, as we all know, that serve a specific group and do nothing for the greater good. This raised bill is nothing of that sort and is actually nothing more than common sense! In a way, it seems almost silly that common sense needs to be legislated but since this is the world we live in – here we are.....

The most important decision for the governing bodies of any municipality is the Town budget. Typically the largest single expenditure they face in any session is big dollar taxpayer/constituent funded construction projects, such as schools and government facilities. It is imperative that those same taxpaying residents affected have the ability to ask questions in a public forum to make sure the project is being completed in *the most cost effective* manner possible.

Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) are written to ensure that the work is performed *exclusively* by union labor. Since only 20% of the construction workforce is union, that bluntly put – means 80% of the construction workforce in the State of CT are discriminated against and eliminated from having the opportunity to submit a competitive bid on that specific project. That ALSO obviously means that 80% of the construction workforce within any municipality cannot bid on a project that they are paying taxes for!!!!!! Stupid but true.. PLA's are exclusionary, discriminatory and simply put – Anti-American by eliminating the spirit of free competitive trade.

But, I digress. The purpose of this raised bill is only to allow the facts be presented and the voices of the taxpayers be heard at a public hearing for each PLA proposed. Very simple in nature and an obvious raised bill to support and move forward.

In conclusion, we are in resounding support of HB 6246.